

CHEMICAL EXAMINATION OF BARK OF *HESPERTHUSA CRENULATA* (ROXB.) ROEM.

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A B S T R A C T

β -sitosterol in 0.01% yield has been isolated from the non-saponifiable fraction of bark of *Hesperthusia crenulata* (Roxb.) Roem.

600 gm. of powdered air-dried bark was extracted exhaustively with petroleum ether (60-80°) in a Soxhlet apparatus. The residue obtained after distilling off the solvent weighed 13.1 gm. It was hydrolysed with 10% alcoholic potassium hydroxide (200 c.c.) on a waterbath for three hours. The whole mass was transferred to a basin and the alcohol was removed by addition of water on the waterbath. After cooling, the hydrolysed product was extracted with ether which was afterwards washed with water and dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate. The non-saponifiable fraction, thus obtained and weighing 1.72 gm. was chromatographed over alumina. The material which came down in the benzene eluent was crystal-

lised from alcohol in plates, m.p. 135° (yield 0.01%). It gave all the tests for a sterol; it imparted bluish pink coloration to Liebermann-Burchard reagent, yellow coloration to tetranitromethane in chloroform and a positive Salkowski reaction. With pyridine and acetic anhydride it formed an acetate which crystallised from alcohol in needles m.p. 124. The physical data of the sterol and its acetate indicated, it might be β -sitosterol. This was confirmed by a mixed m.p. determination of the sterol with an authentic sample of β -sitosterol which remained undepressed.

The plant material was collected by one of us (R.M.B.) during his tour in Dehra Dun area.

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